

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 VO-03 SCA-01 DHA-02 ORM-02 L-03
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 H-01 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02
SS-15 /058 R

DRAFTED BY EUR:JAARMITAGE:LM
APPROVED BY EUR: R. D. VINE
-----042549 021947Z /73

R 021919Z JUL 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 155174

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CZ, US, PINT

SUBJECT:CZECHOSLOVAK AMBASSADOR JOHANES

1. ARMITAGE (EUR) LUNCHEDED WITH CZECHOSLOVAK AMBASSADOR
JOHANES JULY 1. JOHANES IS RETURNING TO PRAGUE FOR A
MONTH VACATION JULY 6.

2. JOHANES WAS HIS USUAL DOCTRINAIRE UNBENDING SELF AND
CONVEYED LITTLE OF INTEREST.

A) REGARDING AMNESTY JUST ANNOUNCED FOR CZECHOSLOVAK
CITIZENS WHO LEFT FOLLOWING 1968, JOHANES PROVIDED NO
INFORMATION AS TO WHETHER THOSE WHO WOULD BE DENIED
VISAS BECAUSE OF ACTIVITIES AGAINST THE INTERESTS OF THE
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STATE WOULD BE A RELATIVELY SMALL NUMBER OR A SUBSTANTIAL
PORTION OF THE EMIGRES. HE DID ADD THAT EVEN THOSE
EMIGRES WHO DID NOT REGULARIZE THEIR CITIZENSHIP STATUS
WOULD BE ALLOWED TO HAVE VISITS FROM THEIR PARENTS (AND
POSSIBLY OTHER RELATIVES) IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

B) CLAIMS/GOLD. HE OFFERED NO ENLIGHTENMENT ON MEANING

OF CHNOUPEK'S STATEMENT ON CLAIMS SITUATION. HE MERELY REPEATED THAT GOC CONTINUED TO CONSIDER THE 1974 SETTLEMENT

REASONABLE, NON-NEGOTIABLE AND LOOKED TO US TO OBTAIN CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL AND APPROACH GOC. ARMITAGE COMMENTED THAT THIS WAS COMPLETELY OUT OF QUESTION BUT THAT USG HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO OBTAIN A CLEAR INDICATION FROM SENATOR LONG OF SETTLEMENT TERMS WHICH THE CONGRESS WOULD FIND ACCEPTABLE. ARMITAGE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THAT AMBASSADOR BYRNE MIGHT BE SPEAKING WITH SENATOR LONG WHEN THE AMBASSADOR RETURNED TO THE US THIS SUMMER.

C. GABRIEL CASE. JOHANES MENTIONED THE GABRIEL CASE. ARMITAGE SAID THAT NO REPLY TO THE LETTER ADDRESSED TO PRESIDENT CARTER WAS LIKELY BUT THAT IF THE GOC OR MRS. GABRIELLA WISHED TO EMPLOY LEGAL COUNSEL TO PURSUE THE CASE, WE WOULD FIND OUT WHAT CHANNELS FOR LEGAL REMEDIES WERE AVAILABLE.

D) ARMITAGE SOUGHT TO CONVEY TO JOHANES SOME ASPECTS OF GOC BEHAVIOR THAT AFFECTED US CONGRESSIONAL AND PUBLIC ASSESSMENTS OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK SITUATION, PARTICULARLY THE RESTRICTIVE AND REPRESSIVE RECORD GOC WAS ACCUMULATING. JOHANES SHOWED NO INTEREST IN SEEKING ANY UNDERSTANDING OF US PUBLIC ATTITUDES AS AN ELEMENT IN POLITICAL RELATIONS BUT GAVE DOGMATIC DEFENSE OF ILLEGITIMACY OF EXTERNAL CONFIDENTIAL

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INTEREST IN CZECHOSLOVAK DOMESTIC AFFAIRS AND OBJECTED THAT US CONTINUED TO TREAT CZECHOSLOVAKIA LIKE IT WAS A "BANANA REPUBLIC." CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AMBASSADORS, MEETINGS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 02-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE155174
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JAARMITAGE:LM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770237-0395
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770794/aaaadebi.tel
Line Count: 97
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 42395171-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1974118
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CZECHOSLOVAK AMBASSADOR JOHANES
TAGS: PINT, CZ, US
To: PRAGUE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/42395171-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009